

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5394

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO 1130

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND'S NATO RELATIONSHIP AGAIN LINKED TO FISHERIES

ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0595

1. INFLUENCIAL ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN THORARINN THORARINSSON (PROGRESSIVE PARTY)
HAS AGAIN WARNED THAT ICELAND' ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO
WILL BE AFFECTED BY CONTINUING FRG VETO OF EEC-ICELAND
TARIFF AGREEMENT STEMMING FROM FAILURE OF ICELAND AND
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FRG TO COME TO TERMS ON FISHERIES PACT. IN LANGUAGE

SIMILAR TO THAT EMPLOYED IN HIS TIMINN EDITORIAL MAY 29
(REFTEL) THORARINSSON, IN JUNE 8 TIMINN COLUMN, DE-
PLORED ATTEMPT BY BIG NATO POWER TO COERCE SMALLER
MEMBER WHICH IS ONLY STANDING UP FOR RIGHTS. "THIS
MUST HAVE INFLUENCE ON OVERALL ATTITUDE IN ICELAND
TOWARD WESTERN COOPERATION GENERALLY," HE ADDED.

2. COMMENT: EFFORTS BY ICELANDERS TO CONNECT
FISHERIES PROBLEMS IN SOME WAY TO NATO RELATIONSHIP
OF DEFENSE POLICY ARE, OF COURSE, NOT NEW. NATO
MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMITMENT WAS INVOKED BY PROGRESSIVE
PARTY-LED GOI DURING 1972-73 FISHERIES DISPUTE WITH
UK, AT WHICH TIME ISSUE COMPOUNDED THREAT TO PRESENCE
OF US-MANNED DEFENSE FORCE. MORE RECENTLY, THERE HAVE
BEEN SUGGESTIONS THAT ICELAND MIGHT RETALIATE AGAINST
FRG TARIFF-AGREEMENT VETO AND LANDING BAN BY HALTING
IDF'S DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES (REASONING BEING THAT FRG
AND OTHER EEC/NATO MEMBERS BENEFIT FROM DEFENSE PRO-
TECTION AFFORDED BY IDF). DEPENDING ON COMPLICATIONS
ARISING FROM EXTENSION OF ICELAND'S FISHING LIMITS TO
200 MILES LATER THIS YEAR, RELATIONS WITH US AND NATO
MAY WELL BE FURTHER DRAGGED INTO SITUATION.

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